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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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 MAR 8 1902
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
 OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS,
 A. C. TRUE, DIRECTOR.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES IN THE UNITED STATES.

BY

D. J. CROSBY,
Office of Experiment Stations.

[Reprint from Annual Report of the Office of Experiment Stations for
 the year ended June 30, 1902.]

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FARMERS' INSTITUTES IN THE UNITED STATES.

By D. J. CROSBY.

GENERAL SURVEY OF THE INSTITUTE MOVEMENT.

In the Annual Report of the Secretary of Agriculture for 1901 Congress was asked to make an appropriation of \$5,000 to enable this Department through its Office of Experiment Stations to undertake the work connected with the promotion of the farmers' institute system in this country. The appropriation was to be used in employing an officer who would devote his time and energy to this work, visit institute workers and advise with them regarding the ways in which the Department might help the institutes, study the problems of institute management at home and abroad, and seek to shape the Department's work for the institutes so that it might be most helpful to this enterprise. Some of the ways in which the Department might help the institutes were pointed out as follows: (1) By collating and publishing information regarding the institute movement at home and abroad; (2) by furnishing the institute workers with the Department publications and information through correspondence; (3) by advising and assisting institute managers with reference to perfecting organization and strengthening the work in weak places; (4) by sending out lecturers to address representative institutes in different States on the work of the Department; (5) in general, by acting through its Office of Experiment Stations as a sort of clearing house for the farmers' institute movement as it has done in the case of the agricultural experiment stations—that is, it would be a center for the focalization and dissemination of information and influences which would serve to develop farmers' institutes and make them a more efficient means for the education of our farmers and the improvement of our agriculture.

As the matter was finally arranged in the appropriation act, only about \$2,000 of the income of this Office for the current fiscal year could be used for the promotion of the institutes. This sum was entirely inadequate for the work planned, but a part of it has been used in publishing the proceedings of the American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers (Bulletin 120 of this Office) and in gathering statistics of the institute movement. The remainder of the appropriation will be used in employing during a portion of the year an officer who will investigate the problems of institute management

and will be retained as the farmers' institute specialist of this Office if Congress shall provide sufficient means for continuing the work.

At the seventh annual meeting of the American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers, a brief account of which is given on page 51, the plans of this Office for aiding the farmers' institute movement were explained to the members, who unanimously adopted a resolution cordially approving the plans.

From brief reports given at this meeting by delegates from the 24 States represented, it appears that one of the most troublesome problems confronting the institute managers is how to secure competent institute workers. The demand is for institute workers having a wide range of knowledge regarding the science and practice of agriculture and particularly up-to-date information regarding the progress that is being made throughout the world in studying problems in agriculture both at the experiment stations and on the farm. Such men are relatively scarce, except among the officers of our agricultural colleges and experiment stations, whose other duties are in most cases so exacting that they can not be expected to devote much time to institute work. There is need of developing a class of institute workers who shall combine successful practical experience and scientific knowledge of agriculture with the ability to address large audiences of farmers in a way not only to hold their attention, but also to impart to them definite information and instruction. This involves the creation of a corps of institute workers who shall receive sufficient salaries to induce them to make specific preparation for their work and to enable them to keep the information in their addresses up to date by studies pursued from year to year. In the task of developing and training these men the Department can help by furnishing them with the Department publications and information through correspondence. This is already done to a considerable extent, but may be more efficiently and thoroughly done by having in the Department a regular agency for this work. The institute workers would undoubtedly appeal to the Department with much more freedom if they felt that their work was definitely recognized here, as is the case with the agricultural colleges and experiment stations. They should also be made to understand that they are very welcome to come to the Department, and by residence at Washington for a longer or shorter time have opportunities for acquiring information through personal contact with the officers of the Department, the use of its library, etc.

It also appeared at this meeting that there is a demand for lecturers from this Department to address representative institutes in different States on the work of the Department, and this demand has since been emphasized by a number of requests for such speakers. Thus far the Department has trusted very largely to its publications for the dissemination of the information which it gathers, and which has grown

to be very large in extent and variety. It would hardly be practicable for the Department to be represented in a single year at any considerable number of institutes in any one State or Territory, but it is believed that more might be done to bring the work of the Department directly to the attention of the leaders in this enterprise through the attendance of its officers at representative meetings, which might be held from time to time in the different States under such conditions as would bring together relatively large numbers of farmers. In this way the influence of the Department would be extended and its officers would have opportunities which they now lack for finding out what the farmers really desire to have the Department do for their benefit. An organization in the Department to promote this work would undoubtedly make it possible for the Department to do much more in this direction.

Returns from the 43 States and Territories in which institutes are held show how far-reaching would be any influence affecting their development to any considerable extent. The number of meetings held annually in the different States and Territories varies from 1 each in Nevada and Rhode Island to more than 250, Michigan holding 255, New York 269, and Ohio 278, including 26 independent institutes. The total number of institutes held during the past year was over 2,700. The time covered by each meeting varies from a single session of a few hours to five or six sessions. There are also held in some States annual round-up meetings at accessible points, which are in session from two to five days, and are attended usually by most of the institute staff, for whom the round-up becomes an inspiration meeting and training school. The total number attending institutes in the United States last year was approximately 819,000, which is eighty times the number of students taking regular courses in agriculture, dairying, veterinary science, and household economy in our land-grant colleges, and nearly twenty times the number enrolled in all departments of those colleges, either in regular or special courses, in collegiate or post-graduate courses. And yet the whole number of people reached by both the institutes and the agricultural colleges is only a small percentage (8.4 per cent) of those actually engaged in agricultural pursuits in this country. The colleges, from their very nature, are not capable of indefinite expansion; their influence is necessarily restricted largely to the younger men and women, to those who will be the farmers of the future. To meet the needs of the present for the broad dissemination of reliable agricultural information among practical farmers, no better agency has been found than the farmers' institutes. It is important, therefore, that the efforts of local authorities to extend the scope and influence of farmers' institutes be supplemented by well-directed and concerted efforts by some central agency, such as the United States Department of Agriculture.

Large sums of money are expended annually in conducting farmers' institutes, the aggregate being about \$163,000, not including expenses incurred by local authorities, which in some States amount to several thousand dollars per annum. However, the manner of raising institute funds in the different States and Territories differs greatly, as do also the amounts raised. In twenty-five of the States and Territories no special appropriations for institutes are made, the funds for this work being taken from funds provided for the support of the agricultural colleges, experiment stations, or State boards of agriculture. In three of the States and Territories making provision for institutes the appropriations do not exceed \$1,000, in twelve they range from \$1,000 to \$5,000, in one \$10,000, in one \$12,000, in one \$15,000, and in four they are above \$15,000. Thus it appears that in more than half of the States and Territories no regular provision for institutes is made, and that in many more the funds devoted to this work are so meager as to be out of all proportion to the importance of the agricultural interests involved or to the number of people engaged in farming. In most of these localities some effort to develop institute work has been made by those interested in bettering agricultural conditions, and it is also true that in some Commonwealths where no appropriations for institutes are made relatively large sums have been devoted to the work; but with no specific appropriations for institutes the amount of money devoted to such work in any given case depends largely upon the inclination of the officials charged with the expenditure of the money. The result in the localities where no regular provision for institute work has been made is a very slow and imperfect development of the work. If this Department were in a position to lend such assistance that a general interest in institute work could be aroused among the farmers in these sections and the way to secure the institutes pointed out, it is reasonable to assume that funds for the more liberal and regular support of the movement would soon be furnished.

The systems of institute management are various. In twenty-one of the States and Territories institutes are conducted under the auspices of State boards or departments of agriculture; in eighteen they are under the control of college or station authorities, and in the remainder they are poorly organized or are under the dual control of educational institutions and State officials. In relatively few cases are there strong organizations developed for the special purpose of conducting farmers' institutes. This Department, through its Office of Experiment Stations, will, if Congress provides the necessary funds, assist in this work of organization in the same way that it has helped the experiment stations throughout the country. The visits of the officers of the Department to the different experiment stations and the conferences held at Washington and at the meetings of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations have, it is believed, done much to systematize the work of the stations and make them more

efficient. In a similar way an institute specialist from this office might visit the managers of institutes and the institutes themselves in different States and Territories, and meet representative institute managers at Washington, or in conferences held in different parts of the country. Already there is a successfully conducted American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers, which may easily be developed so as to become a very important factor in the further progress of the farmers' institute movement.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES IN THE SEVERAL STATES AND TERRITORIES.

The following brief statements regarding farmers' institutes include facts relating to their organization, their financial support, the number held, the approximate attendance, and the manner of publishing and distributing proceedings. In some of the States where the institutes are not thoroughly organized there is no special institute director or superintendent, the duties of this position devolving upon some member of the agricultural college or experiment station staff or upon an officer of the State board or department of agriculture.

ALABAMA.

C. A. CAREY, Veterinarian Alabama Polytechnic Institute and Agricultural Experiment Station, *Auburn*.

In Alabama farmers' institutes are held under the auspices of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn. The staff, consisting of about eight members, is made up mostly of members of the college and station staff. For the support of institutes \$400 is appropriated from the fees for fertilizer inspection and \$200 from the Hatch fund. During the past year 24 one-day institutes were held, with an attendance of about 2,600. Institute proceedings are not published.

G. W. CARVER, Director Agricultural Department of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, *Tuskegee*.

For the colored race in Alabama monthly conferences of farmers are held at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute; also an annual conference which is attended by a large number of farmers from all parts of the State.

ARIZONA.

R. H. FORBES, Director Agricultural Experiment Station, *Tucson*.

No regular organization for holding farmers' institutes exists in Arizona. During the past year two institutes held under the auspices of the University of Arizona were attended by about 350 people. Four members of the experiment station staff took part in these institutes.

ARKANSAS.

Farmers' institutes are not organized in Arkansas.

CALIFORNIA.

E. J. WICKSON, Superintendent Farmers' Institutes, *Berkeley*.

D. T. FOWLER, Conductor of Institutes in Central and Northern California, *Berkeley*.

A. J. COOK, Conductor of Institutes in Southern California, *Claremont*.

The department of university extension in agriculture of the University of California holds the farmers' institutes. The professor of agricultural practice in the university is superintendent. He delegates the direct management of the institutes to two conductors, one for central and northern California and the other for southern California. The regular institute staff comprises nine speakers, who are assisted by local speakers. A college appropriation of \$4,000 provides for traveling expenses and per diem, but expenses for rent of halls, printing programmes, and advertising the institutes are paid by the localities in which institutes are held. During the past year 63 institutes were held, the total attendance being about 20,000.

COLORADO.

B. O. AYLESWORTH, President State Agricultural College, *Fort Collins*.

Farmers' institutes in Colorado are held under the auspices of the State Agricultural College of Colorado, with a staff of some 25 members, nine of whom are officers of the college and station. There is no State appropriation for this work, each institute providing the funds to pay all local expenses. The necessary expenses of college and station men who participate in the work are paid from college funds. During the past year 9 one-day and 6 two-day meetings were held. No proceedings are published.

CONNECTICUT.

JAMES F. BROWN, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *North Stonington*.

GEORGE E. MANCHESTER, Secretary Connecticut Dairymen's Association, *Winsted*.

H. C. C. MILES, Secretary Connecticut Pomological Society, *Milford*.

The farmers' institutes in Connecticut are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture, the State Dairymen's Association, and the State Pomological Society. There is no appropriation for institutes, the expense of conducting them being met by the different organizations. The State board of agriculture during the past year held 12 institutes, attended by about 4,000 people, and a three-day annual meeting. A staff of 20 members, mainly from the Storrs and New Haven experiment stations, conduct these institutes, reports of which are published in the annual report of the State board of agriculture. The other two organizations held from three to five meetings each.

DELAWARE.

Farmers' institutes in Delaware are organized by counties, each of which is given a State appropriation of \$200 a year.

Kent County.—Wesley Webb, Superintendent, *Dover*. In this county during the past year there were held 5 one-day institutes and 2 two-day institutes, with a total attendance of 2,300.

Sussex County.—S. H. Messick, Secretary, *Bridgeville*. During the year 2 one-day institutes and 2 two-day institutes were held, with a total attendance of 600.

Newcastle County.—A. T. Neale, Superintendent, *Newark*. During the year this county held 4 two-day institutes with a total attendance of 155.

FLORIDA.

C. M. CONNER, Superintendent, *Lake City*.

Farmers' institutes in Florida are held under the auspices of the department of agriculture of the Florida Agricultural College and are distributed largely according to the wishes of the different localities. The institute staff is made up very largely of practical men throughout the State, and the arrangement of details is left entirely to the localities in which institutes are held. There is a State appropriation of \$2,500 per annum, and railroads cooperate to the extent of furnishing transportation for institute workers. During the past year 22 institutes were held, with a total attendance of 3,300.

GEORGIA.

Farmers' institutes are not organized in Georgia.

HAWAII.

JARED G. SMITH, President, *Honolulu*.

During the past year an association known as The Farmers' Institute of Hawaii was organized with the special agent in charge of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station as president, and 4 successful meetings were held.

IDAHO.

H. T. FRENCH, Superintendent, *Moscow*.

In Idaho farmers' institutes are held under the management of the board of regents of the University of Idaho, who have designated the professor of agriculture in the College of Agriculture as superintendent. The institute staff is composed mainly of college and station men, six of whom participate in the work. The last legislature appropriated \$1,000 for two years for institute work. During the past year 50 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 17,000.

ILLINOIS.

A. B. HOSTETTER, Secretary and Superintendent, *Springfield*.

In Illinois there is a corporation organized under State law known as the Illinois Farmers' Institute, the officers of which consist of president, vice-president, secretary and superintendent, treasurer, and a board of directors, comprising the superintendent of public instruction, the dean of the College of Agriculture, and the presidents of the State Board of Agriculture, the State Horticultural Society, and the State Dairymen's Association, as ex-officio members, and one elective member from each Congressional district. There are also local institute societies, under whose immediate auspices the local institutes are held. There is no regular institute staff, but instead of this a list of 100 or more recommended speakers is furnished for the use of local organizations in making up their programmes. The total appropriation for the past year was \$18,150, which included \$2,500 for traveling libraries and \$75 for each county taking advantage of the provision for holding farmers' institutes. One hundred and nine institutes were held, besides a four-day round-up by the State Farmers' Institute. The total attendance was about 39,000. Proceedings of the various meetings are published in a volume of about 500 pages, 20,000 copies of which are distributed.

INDIANA.

W. C. LATTA, Superintendent, *Lafayette*.

In Indiana farmers' institutes are held under the auspices of the School of Agriculture of Purdue University, the professor of agriculture acting as superintendent. There is a small institute staff, including seven or eight members of the college and station staff, but the speakers are largely farmers, stockmen, fruit growers, etc., who have made a success in their particular lines. From his list of speakers the superintendent assigns two for each institute, the localities providing the remainder of the programme. A State appropriation of \$10,000 is available for institute work. During the past year 201 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 40,000. Proceedings of the institutes are published in the annual report of the State board of agriculture.

IOWA.

There is no central organization of farmers' institutes in Iowa. A State law allows \$75 a year to each county holding an institute of forty or more practical farmers. Under this provision during the past year 65 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 6,500. The State department of agriculture publishes such of the papers as are of general interest. A State farmers' institute under

the auspices of this department was held recently at Des Moines, and was attended by several officers of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts.

KANSAS.

D. H. OTIS, Animal Husbandman Kansas State Agricultural College and Experiment Station, *Manhattan*.

Farmers' institutes in Kansas are held under the auspices of the Kansas State Agricultural College and are in charge of the professor of animal husbandry of the college. The staff is made up very largely of college and station men, 20 of whom devoted an average of 15 days each to institute work during the past year. With a State appropriation of \$2,000, 102 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 32,000. The only way in which proceedings are published is through the newspapers.

KENTUCKY.

I. B. NALL, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Frankfort*.

Farmers' institutes in Kentucky are held under the auspices of the bureau of agriculture, the commissioner of which is given entire control of the institutes and of the State appropriation for the bureau of \$13,000 per annum, any part of which he may devote to institute work. The commissioner holds institutes only where there are local organizations to take charge of details and furnish halls and other accommodations for the meetings. During the past year 8 two-day meetings were held, with a total attendance of 1,600. Reports of these institutes are secured by an official stenographer, printed by the public printer, and sent out in editions of 10,000 to 12,000 to leading agricultural papers in the State, county newspapers, and postmasters. The agricultural and other papers send out these reports as supplements to their regular editions. The postmasters distribute the reports to the patrons of their offices. In this way it is claimed that the reports reach about 100,000 readers.

LOUISIANA.

J. G. LEE, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Baton Rouge*.

Farmer's institutes in Louisiana are conducted under the direction of the commissioner of agriculture, who is assisted greatly by officers of the agricultural college and experiment stations of the State. An appropriation of \$2,000 for this work is made by the State. During the past year 38 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 7,500. Proceedings are published in the annual report of the State board of agriculture and immigration.

MAINE.

A. W. GILMAN, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Augusta*.

Farmers' institutes in Maine are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture. Members of the college and station staff make up a part of the institute staff, but receive no pay for their work. A State appropriation of \$3,500 is made, with which 37 institutes, with a total attendance of about 5,900, were held during the past year. Reports are published in the annual report of the State board of agriculture.

MARYLAND.

W. L. AMOSS, Director, *Benson*.

The law in Maryland establishes a department of farmers' institutes in connection with the Maryland Agricultural College, and provides that the director of farmers' institutes shall be appointed by the trustees of the college. One institute is to be held annually in each of the 23 counties, and an additional institute in each county if deemed necessary. The staff is made up partly of college and station men, partly of successful farmers from different parts of Maryland and from other States. The State appropriation for this work is \$4,000. During the past year 36 institutes, with a total attendance of about 1,500, were held.

MASSACHUSETTS.

J. L. ELLSWORTH, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *Boston*.

Farmers' institutes in Massachusetts are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture, a committee of which, together with the secretary of the board, has immediate charge of the work, subject, however, to certain restrictions, which recognize the incorporated agricultural societies of the State. The secretary each year prints a list of available speakers and their subjects, from which the agricultural societies choose speakers for the institutes. The funds for carrying on this work are drawn from an appropriation of \$2,800, placed in the hands of the board for the dissemination of useful information, including lectures, crop reports, and farmers' institutes. During the calendar year 1901, 128 institutes were held, with a total attendance of 2,176. The State board of agriculture also holds two meetings a year—a summer or field meeting and a winter meeting. Proceedings are published in the annual report of the State board of agriculture.

MICHIGAN.

L. R. TAFT, Superintendent, *Agricultural College*.

In Michigan farmers' institutes are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture, which is in charge also of the State Agricul-

tural College and Experiment Station. Institutes are held by counties mostly and are under the local direction of county institute societies. The officers of these societies are furnished lists of speakers and subjects by the superintendent of institutes, and from these lists make up their programmes, which also include a number of local speakers. The funds for the support of farmers' institutes are appropriated by the State board of agriculture from a State appropriation of \$100,000 placed in its hands for the support of the State Agricultural College, Agricultural Experiment Station, and farmers' institutes. For the past fiscal year the amount thus appropriated by the board was \$7,500, which was devoted to the payment of traveling and other expenses of workers, administrative expenses, printing, and the expenses for a round-up meeting of institute workers at the agricultural college at the close of the season. During the year 255 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 101,000. About 72 per cent of these institutes were one-day meetings. Proceedings of farmers' institutes are printed in an annual report embodying about 100 pages.

MINNESOTA.

O. C. GREGG, Superintendent, *Lynd.*

The Minnesota farmers' institutes are held under the auspices of an administrative board consisting of three members of the board of regents of the University of Minnesota and the presidents of the State Agricultural Society, State Horticultural Society, and State Dairy-men's Association. A State superintendent of farmers' institutes is responsible to this board for the conduct of the institutes and the expenditure of funds. The institute staff is made up quite largely of practical farmers, stockmen, and dairymen. A State appropriation of \$16,500 is available for institutes, of which 69 were held during the past year, with a total attendance of about 27,000. An annual report of about 400 pages is distributed annually to about 26,000 farmers. It is given free of charge only to those in attendance at the morning session of the first day of the institute.

MISSISSIPPI.

W. L. HUTCHINSON, Director Agricultural Experiment Station, *Agricultural College.*

Farmers' institutes in Mississippi are held under the management of the director of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, with a staff made up largely from officers of the agricultural college and experiment station. The last legislature appropriated \$3,000 for institutes for two years. During the past year 40 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 8,000.

MISSOURI.

GEORGE B. ELLIS, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *Columbia*.

Farmers' institutes in Missouri are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture, which has no official connection with the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts or the Experiment Station. These institutions, however, and the three normal schools, and the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station cooperate with the board in this work and furnish a large percentage of the regular institute staff, which numbers about 20 members. There are also a number of local organizations which hold monthly meetings. Four thousand dollars of the fund appropriated for the use of the State board of agriculture is devoted to institute work. During the past fiscal year 104 meetings were held, with a total attendance of about 10,000. A novel feature recently introduced into the Missouri institute system is the railroad institute. Through the cooperation of railroads cars are fitted up for exhibition purposes and hauled from place to place without cost to the State board of agriculture. In fruit sections the car is furnished with spray pumps, collections of insects injurious to fruit, and the like; in dairy sections, with dairy apparatus; in live-stock sections, with typical specimens of live stock. Officers of the board, the agricultural college, and the experiment stations accompany the car and at each stop give demonstrations and hold institutes.

MONTANA.

S. FORTIER, Secretary, *Bozeman*.

Farmers' institutes in Montana are organized by law under a board of administration designated Directors of the Montana Farmers' Institutes, and consisting of the governor of the State and the director of the Montana Experiment Station, ex officio, and the presidents of the the following organizations: Montana Live Stock Association, Montana Horticultural Society, Montana Agricultural Association, Montana Dairymen's Association. The law provides that institutes shall be held at least once in each county each year, and appropriates \$2,000 per annum for their support, including the printing of an institute annual. All members of the station staff participate in the institutes, and are assisted by volunteers from different parts of the State. During the past year 12 one-day and 5 two-day meetings were held, with a total attendance of about 12,000. Proceedings are published in an edition of 5,000 and distributed at institutes and by mail.

NEBRASKA.

E. A. BURNETT, Superintendent, *Lincoln*.

In Nebraska farmers' institutes are conducted under the auspices of the University of Nebraska and under the superintendency of the

director of the experiment station. The institute staff comprises 14 regular members and 13 others who are called upon occasionally. The State appropriation for institutes is \$4,000. During the past year there were held 39 one-day institutes and 47 two-day institutes, a total of 86. The attendance was nearly 26,000. No proceedings are published.

NEVADA.

The first farmers' institute in Nevada was held this last year at Elko by the staff of the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station. It was well attended.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

N. J. BACHELDER, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *Concord*.

Under the auspices of the State board of agriculture about 40 institutes were held during the past year in New Hampshire, with an attendance of about 4,000. The expense of conducting these institutes was paid from the general appropriation for the board. Proceedings are published and about 2,000 copies are distributed.

NEW JERSEY.

FRANKLIN DYE, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *Trenton*.

Farmers' institutes in New Jersey are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture and are under the immediate control of the secretary of that board. Speakers are chosen from a temporary list of about 30 workers. The annual State appropriation is \$600. During the past year 12 one-day institutes and 5 two-day institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 5,000. Newspapers have been used freely heretofore in disseminating information regarding the institutes, but beginning with 1903 the proceedings of the institutes will be published in the annual report of the State board of agriculture.

NEW MEXICO.

Farmers' institutes are not yet organized in New Mexico.

NEW YORK.

F. E. DAWLEY, Director, *Fayetteville*.

In New York farmers' institutes are under the auspices of the commissioner of agriculture, Albany, who appoints a director of institutes. The permanent institute staff includes about 80 speakers, the temporary staff 20. From this staff the director delegates to each institute a conductor and one or more other speakers. The institutes are apportioned according to the agricultural interests of the various counties, and speakers are occasionally sent to assist at the meetings of the State associations of dairymen, bee keepers, breeders, fruit growers, and the Western New York Horticultural Society. The

annual State appropriation for institutes is \$20,000, which is supplemented by local provision for rent of halls, advertising, etc. During the calendar year 1902, 269 institutes were held, with a total attendance of upward of 95,000. Proceedings are published in editions of 25,000 and distributed at institutes and from the department of agriculture.

NORTH CAROLINA.

S. L. PATTERSON, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Raleigh*.

Farmers' institutes in North Carolina are under the auspices of the State department of agriculture, which furnishes the necessary funds from its income from the inspection of fertilizers, the amount expended during the past year being \$322.63. Halls in which institutes are held are provided by the different localities. The institute staff is made up almost entirely from the officers of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and the Agricultural Experiment Station. During the past year 17 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 1,700. Occasional bulletins on farmers' institutes are published in editions of about 20,000 copies.

NORTH DAKOTA.

E. E. KAUFMAN, Secretary, *Fargo*.

Farmers' institutes in North Dakota are held under the direction of the professor of dairying in the North Dakota Agricultural College, who is secretary of the institutes. The college and station staff participate largely in the institute work, but are not necessarily members of the regular institute corps. The State appropriation for this work is \$1,500. During the past year 27 institutes, with a total attendance of 9,967, were held.

OHIO.

W. W. MILLER, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *Columbus*.

Farmers' institutes in Ohio are placed by law under the control of the State board of agriculture, but local management is encouraged as far as possible. The officers of the institutes are chosen by local institute societies organized according to law and under the rules of the State board of agriculture. They conduct the meeting, but for each meeting 2 speakers are provided and dates and places for holding the meetings fixed by the secretary of the State board of agriculture. The institutes are supported by a per capita tax of 6 mills, which may not exceed \$250 in any one county. Half of this tax is available for local institute expenses and half goes directly to the State board of agriculture for the payment of its various expenses. The total receipts from this tax during the past year were \$16,784.13. During the past year 252 regular institutes and 26 independent institutes were held.

The total attendance was nearly 95,000. An annual State institute is held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture. The proceedings of the institutes are published in an edition of 10,000 copies, which are distributed by mail through the various agricultural societies and farmers' institutes.

OKLAHOMA.

J. B. THOBURN, Secretary Board of Agriculture, *Guthrie*.

The farmers' institute movement in Oklahoma is in process of organization. A State law provides that whenever nine counties shall have regularly chartered farmers' institutes, the governor may issue a call for the organization of a Territorial board of agriculture to have general control of the institutes. During the past year the director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station has been actively engaged in organizing county farmers' institutes, and the requisite number having been organized, a call for a meeting of delegates was recently made by the governor and on December 18 the Territorial board of agriculture was organized by delegates from 13 counties. This board consists of six members elected by the delegates, and the governor, *ex officio*. The board elects a secretary who is not a member of the board and who is required, among other things, to arrange for an annual meeting of each institute at each county seat in counties having chartered institutes. He is required by law to cooperate with the agricultural college and station in the preparation of programmes. The county institutes already organized have been holding a number of meetings, some coming together as often as once a month. In other cases the counties are divided into four or more districts with local organizations auxiliary to the county organization. During the year 1902 officers of the experiment station attended 11 institutes, at 8 of which the attendance averaged about 50, and at the other 3 about 250.

OREGON.

JAMES WITHEYCOMBE, Director Oregon Experiment Station, *Corvallis*.

Farmers' institutes in Oregon are held under the auspices of the Oregon State Agricultural College and are supported by college funds. The railroads of the State cooperate in this work to the extent of furnishing transportation for members of the college and station staff when engaged in institute work. During the past year 19 institutes were held, with a total attendance of 3,335.

PENNSYLVANIA.

A. L. MARTIN, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Director of Institutes, *Harrisburg*.

In Pennsylvania farmers' institutes are held under the direction of the deputy secretary of agriculture, who, by law, is made director of

institutes. There are also county organizations, and a local chairman of institutes, elected by the agricultural society of the town, if there be one, is in immediate charge of the institutes. The State appropriation is \$15,000, from which \$12.50 for a one-day meeting and \$25 for a two-day meeting is placed in the hands of the local chairman to defray expenses of advertising, procuring hall, etc. There is a staff of about 50 regular workers and 14 supplies, from which the director of institutes sends at least 3 lecturers to each meeting. A number of regular lecturers are drawn from the officers of the Pennsylvania State College and Agricultural Experiment Station. Use is also made of 1,000 or more local speakers. During the past year 54 one-day and 135 two-day meetings were held, with a total attendance of over 144,000. A three-day round-up meeting of institute managers and lecturers is held annually. Farmers' institute bulletins are published and the proceedings, including the best papers presented at the institutes, are published in the annual report of the department of agriculture, of which 31,600 copies are distributed.

RHODE ISLAND.

G. A. STOCKWELL, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *Providence*.

In Rhode Island occasional farmers' institutes are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture, the expenses being met from a State appropriation of \$15,000 for the use of the board. During the past year one institute with an attendance of 30 was held. Proceedings are published in the annual report of the State board of agriculture, 2,500 copies of which are distributed.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

J. S. NEWMAN, Agriculturist Clemson Agricultural College and Agricultural Experiment Station, *Clemson College*.

In South Carolina farmers' institutes are conducted by the agricultural department of Clemson Agricultural College and the Agricultural Experiment Station connected with it, by a staff of nine members made up largely from officers of this department. There is no special appropriation for this work, the enterprise being supported by college and station funds. The expenditures for institutes during the past year were \$571.43 from college funds and \$480.18 from station funds, making a total of \$1,051.61. Thirteen one-day meetings, with a total attendance of about 5,600, and a five-day round-up at Clemson College, with an attendance of 450, were held. No proceedings are published.

THOS. E. MILLER, President The Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural, and Mechanical College, *Orangeburg*.

Institutes for colored people in South Carolina are being organized under the auspices of The Colored Normal, Industrial, Agricultural,

and Mechanical College. During the past year 17 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 4,000. It is the intention to organize an institute in each county in the State and 35 of these are now in working order.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

There is no regular organization for holding farmers' institutes in South Dakota, and during the past year no such meetings were held.

TENNESSEE.

T. H. PAINE, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Nashville*.

Farmers' institutes in Tennessee are organized under the department of agriculture, with the commissioner of agriculture in charge. There is a State organization composed of a few representative farmers from each county which meets annually; three division institutes, comprising delegates to the number of 500 to 1,000, which hold meetings that remain in session usually three days, and county institutes in many of the counties organized with a president, vice-president, and secretary, and holding one-day meetings. A State appropriation of \$25,000 to the State department of agriculture is available for this work. During the last biennial period \$4,032.58 was devoted to institute work.

TEXAS.

J. H. CONNELL, President, *Dallas*.

The Texas Farmers' Institute is a State organization which has held several annual meetings, but has no official connection with any of the State departments or institutions. Its officers are now engaged in organizing permanent county institutes, which will hold regular meetings under the auspices of the State organization. For the fall campaign of 1902, 13 two-day institutes were provided.

UTAH.

W. J. KERR, President Agricultural College of Utah, *Logan*.

A State law in Utah places farmers' institutes under the auspices of the Agricultural College of Utah and provides that at least one institute shall be held annually in each county. The institute staff includes about 15 members and is made up largely of college and station officers. The State appropriates \$1,500 annually for this work. During the past year 44 one-day institutes were held, with an attendance ranging from 29 to 300. Annual reports are published as college bulletins and are distributed in editions of 5,000 by mail.

VERMONT.

C. J. BELL, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, *East Hardwick.*

Vermont farmers' institutes are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture, which is given some assistance by the officers of the State Agricultural College and Agricultural Experiment Station. The institute staff numbers about 15 members. The State appropriation for this work is \$4,000, which covers all expenses. During the past year there were held 35 one-day meetings and 15 two-day meetings, a total of 50, with an attendance of about 10,000. Proceedings are published in editions of about 3,000.

VIRGINIA.

G. W. KOINER, Commissioner of Agriculture, *Richmond.*

Farmers' institutes in Virginia are held at the discretion of the commissioner of agriculture, who pays the expense of conducting them from State board of agriculture funds. During the past year 47 such meetings were held, with a total attendance of 14,100. The Virginia Polytechnic Institute has also held a few institutes on its own account. During the past year 6 of these were held, mainly along the line of the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

WASHINGTON.

E. A. BRYAN, President Washington Agricultural College and School of Science, *Pullman.*

Farmers' institutes in Washington are held under the auspices of the Agricultural College and School of Science and the Agricultural Experiment Station, the officers of which make up the institute staff. They are held where applications are made for them and as frequently as members of the staff can be detailed to attend them. No definite sum is provided for the work. During the past year 31 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 1,500.

WEST VIRGINIA.

J. B. GARVIN, Superintendent, *Charleston.*

All farmers' institutes in West Virginia are held under the auspices of the State board of agriculture, aided by county institute societies, of which there are one or more in each county. Two members of the board attend each institute and have full charge of the employment of outside help. The secretary of the board is superintendent of institutes. The officers of the county institutes correspond with the superintendent, select places in the county for holding institutes, choose the speakers from a list sent out by the superintendent, and arrange the

programmes, which are printed by the public printer. The State appropriates for the total expenses of the board of agriculture \$10,000 a year, of which about \$5,000 is available for institutes. During the past year 75 institutes were held, with a total attendance of about 15,000. Such papers as are of general interest are published in the *Farm Review*, a paper of 32 pages, published by the State board of agriculture and having a circulation of about 6,000 copies.

WISCONSIN.

GEORGE MCKERROW, Superintendent, *Madison*.

The department of farmers' institutes of the University of Wisconsin is given full charge of institutes in that State. A staff of about 30 workers, some of whom are officers of the university and the experiment station, is maintained. A State appropriation of \$12,000 is devoted to the direction of institutes, the employment of workers, and to the payment of traveling expenses, etc. The rent of halls and the expense of printing programmes and advertising the meetings are met by the localities in which institutes are held. During the past year 10 one-day and 112 two-day meetings were held, with a total attendance of about 48,800. About 60,000 copies of the proceedings are distributed at institutes, by mail through clubs, etc.

WYOMING.

Farmers' institutes are not organized in Wyoming.

STATISTICS.

The figures in the following statistical table are derived from three sources: (1) Reports made by the presidents of the agricultural colleges in the several States and Territories to the Bureau of Education; (2) letters of inquiry sent to managers of institutes by the Division of Publications of this Department, and (3) letters of inquiry sent to managers of institutes by this Office. Repeated efforts were made to secure complete and reliable information regarding the funds devoted to institute work, the number of institutes held, and the approximate attendance, but in the case of some Commonwealths, where the farmers' institutes are not thoroughly organized, this was not possible. In such localities it was very difficult to secure complete data regarding the funds devoted to institute work, it being necessary in some cases to indicate the source of these funds without giving the definite amounts. There has thus far been no uniform system for recording the number of institutes and the attendance in the several States. Some institute managers have reported the number of institutes held during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1902; others the number held in the calendar year 1902. Some have estimated the attendance, others

have counted those present, while a few have employed a system of registry; some have attempted to get at the number of different persons in attendance at the various sessions, while others, probably the majority, have taken the sum of those in attendance at each session as the total attendance for an institute. The statistics given in this report are therefore only approximate, but will serve to indicate the relative extent of the institute movement in the different States. It is hoped that hereafter a system may be devised under which more exact statistics of the farmers' institutes throughout the country will be obtained.

Statistics of the farmers' institutes.

State.	Funds for institutes.		Number of institutes held.	Approximate attendance.
	State.	College and other funds.		
Alabama.....		\$600.00	24	2,616
Arizona.....			2	350
California.....		4,000.00	63	20,000
Colorado.....		(a)	15
Connecticut.....			12	5,000
Delaware.....	\$600.00		15	3,055
Florida.....	2,500.00		22	3,300
Hawaii.....			4	180
Idaho.....	500.00		50	17,000
Illinois.....	18,150.00		110	39,187
Indiana.....	10,000.00		201	40,000
Iowa.....	(b)		65	6,500
Kansas.....	2,000.00		102	32,450
Kentucky.....		(a)	8	1,600
Louisiana.....	2,000.00		38	7,500
Maine.....	3,500.00		37	5,920
Maryland.....	4,000.00		36	1,500
Massachusetts.....		(a)	128	2,176
Michigan.....		7,500.00	255	101,000
Minnesota.....	16,500.00		69	27,205
Mississippi.....	1,500.00		40	8,000
Missouri.....		a 4,000.00	104	10,000
Montana.....	2,000.00		17	1,200
Nebraska.....	4,000.00		86	25,800
Nevada.....			1
New Hampshire.....		(a)	40	4,000
New Jersey.....	\$600.00		17	5,000
New York.....	20,000.00		269	94,688
North Carolina.....		\$322.63	17	1,700
North Dakota.....	1,500.00		27	9,967
Ohio.....	16,784.13		278	94,655
Oklahoma.....			11	1,150
Oregon.....		(c)	19	3,335
Pennsylvania.....	15,000.00		189	144,431
Rhode Island.....		(a)	1	30
South Carolina.....		1,051.61	14 17	6,100 4,000
Tennessee.....	d 2,016.29	
Utah.....	1,500.00		44
Vermont.....	4,000.00		50	10,000
Virginia.....		(a)	47	14,100
Washington.....		(c)	31	1,500
West Virginia.....	5,000.00		75	15,000
Wisconsin.....	12,000.00		122	48,800
Total.....	145,650.42	17,474.24	2,772	819,995

^a Expense of conducting institutes met by funds appropriated for State boards or departments of agriculture.

^b \$75 for each county holding an institute.

^c Expense of conducting institutes paid from college funds.

^d Half of the \$4,032.58 devoted to farmers' institutes during the last biennial period.

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